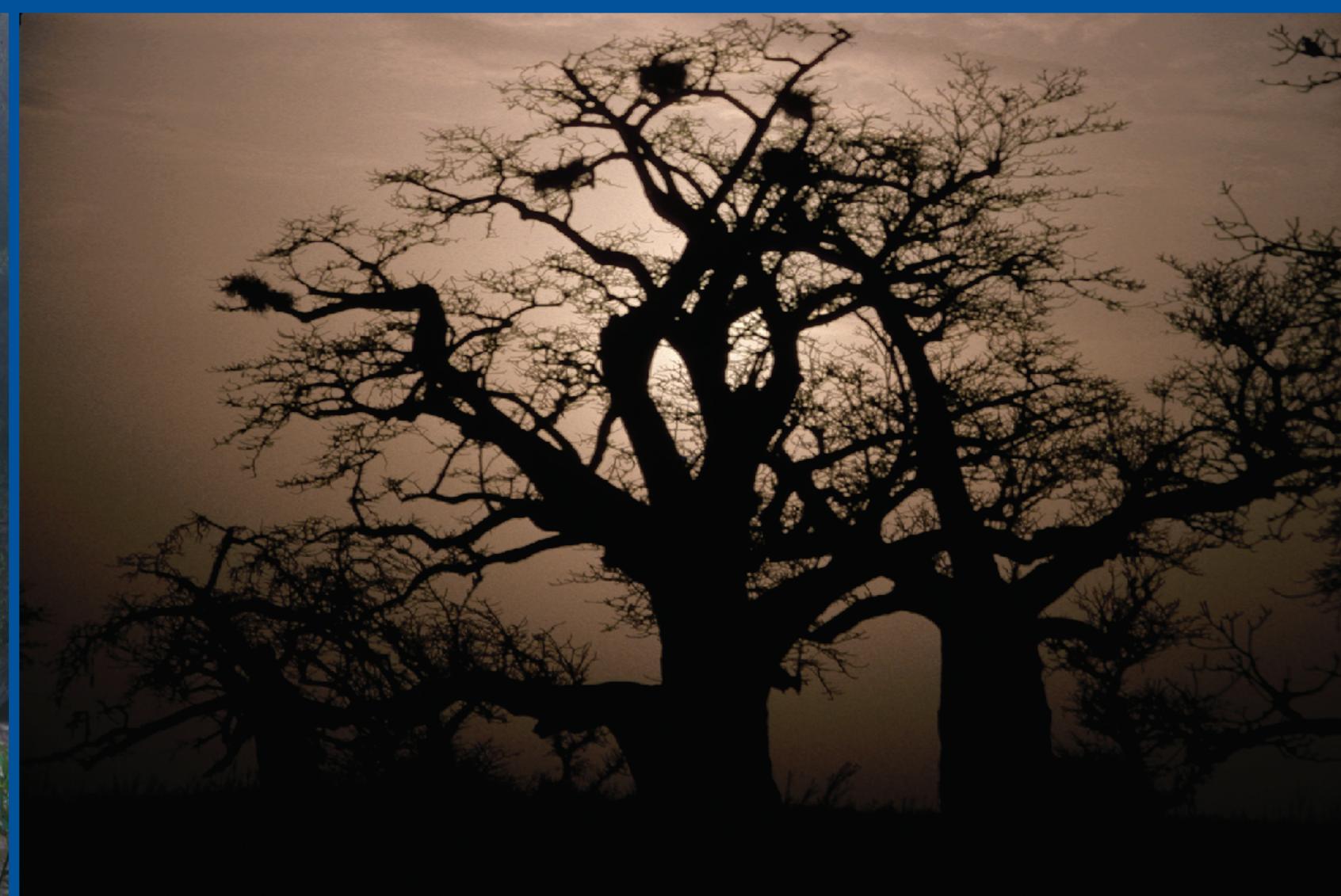
Sustainable development is...

Partnerships that share knowledge are a valuable tool for building our common future. In the modern world, we have an unprecedented ability to share information and knowledge. Partnerships between diverse organizations can spread timely information and learning to those who need it most. This World Summit must also be the World Summit on Sustainable Partnerships.

...partnerships

Eco-tourism

Eco-tourism proves that protecting the environment can make good business sense. U.S. federal agencies are working with partners around the world to unleash eco-tourism's potential for sustainable social and economic development.

Sustainable eco-tourism requires careful environmental management and must provide unique educational experiences. When the government of Panama launched a new learning-based partnership to develop sustainable eco-tourism, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) helped developers integrate scientific research into every step of the process to promote effective wilderness conservation and educate tourists. Scientific advice minimizes tourism's impact on the fragile tropical environment by grounding development in sound science.

USAID, the USDA Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian and other U.S. agencies help governments implement policies to attract effective investments in eco-tourism. In Costa Rica, Jamaica and Sri Lanka, U.S. support helped create new wildlife parks and tourist facilities. In Ramanofana National Park in Madagascar, U.S. agencies worked closely with government and local organizations to help nearby communities build schools, health centers and income-generating activities. Partnerships improve parks management and create jobs for tour guides, park rangers and educators. They demonstrate that careful management and cooperation can integrate environmental protection, private enterprise and community development.

FEWSNet

Sub-Saharan Africa faces natural and man-made threats that leave the region vulnerable to famine. Using the latest in scientific, economic and social research, the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) saves lives by helping to avert famines before they begin.

Unlike floods or other disasters that strike without warning, droughts and crop failures unfold gradually, providing ample time for decision-makers to prepare and take preventive action. The U.S. Agency for International Development, in collaboration with US Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the US Geological Service, created FEWS NET, a system that integrates scientific, economic and social data to detect famine risk in time to intervene. Atmospheric data can forecast droughts, while data on social conflicts or market fluctuations can predict problems with food access that may lead to widespread famine.

FEWS NET is building local networks that link analyses with public action to prevent famine. With partners in 17 African nations, FEWS NET is actively developing locally based, sustainable information systems.

In the year 2000, early warnings helped USAID and its partners avert famine in the Horn of Africa, saving thousands of lives. By mobilizing information to coordinate relief efforts efficiently, FEWS NET helps decision-makers around the world in their fight against hunger. The mitigation efforts for the 2002 famine in southern Africa are being greatly assisted by the existence of the FEWS NET system.